

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, October 28, 2010

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Larry Gasco Chairman, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent Excused: Carlos Sosa, Hayward McNeill, Greg Thompson, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
ACTION TAKEN – September 23, 2010 minutes was unanimously approved with modifications. Motion-Lubin/Second-Wolff

II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Executive Committee Meeting Report** – Delores Huffman reported on the following items discussed at the meeting held October 14, 2010:
 1. Final modifications were made to the "Special Report on the Aging Population". The motion and final report will be put on the agenda for full Commission approval.
 2. MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting Report – The group met October 12. Dialogue continued on using interns to help the SAACs complete projects and develop annual reports.
 3. Support Letter from Commission to Reclassify Commission Unique Positions – Discussions continued on reclassifying the Commission's positions to further clarify why reclassification is needed to help career advancement. Staff from DMH Human Resources Bureau was invited to the meeting to discuss ideas how to facilitate the request but had a schedule conflict.
 4. Departmental Report – Dr. Shaner discussed; 1) the impact of losing the AB 3632 program, 2) the VOICE Awards, 3) repurposing MHSA funding due to the Health Care Reform and the 1115 Waiver, and 4) launching of the Veterans Services website.
- **Commissioner Recognition** - Jerry Lubin was honored at SHARE awards program. Mr. Lubin shared with the audience the Commission has been the leaders in advancing employment and education, recovery and wellness, the Arts in the juvenile camps, psychiatric response with law enforcement, and underserved populations in Los Angeles County. Dr. Helen Wolff also attended the awards program.

- **CALMHBC** – Frank Baron attended the CALMHBC (California Local Mental Health Board and Commissions) meeting in Sacramento along with Hayward McNeill and Delores Huffman. The meeting was 3 days. Hearing what other counties are doing is always a benefit in sharing information. The group wants to hold a workshop in Los Angeles and is requesting ideas or suggestions for a topic.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Meeting** – The group met October 12. Issues discussed at the meeting were; 1) overview of the meeting, 2) the annual legislation event, 3) CBEEP program, and 4) low consumer attendance at SAAC meetings.
- **Chair's Comments** – Mr. Gasco spoke on attending the Oversight and Accountability breakfast October 28. Eduardo Vega, DMH Deputy resigned from DMH employment to pursue job in northern California.
- **ACTION ITEMS**
 1. The motion and the "Special Report on the Aging Population" were approved by unanimous vote. Motion – Caballero/Perrou
 2. Support letter for reclassification – tabled
 3. Support letter to VOICE awards – tabled
 4. Joint meeting date with CCF Commission – January 27, 2011

III. **DMH Report – Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director, Mental Health**

Budget Related – Dr. Southard discussed the impact of the governor's decision to blue pencil AB3632 and CalWORKs programs. DMH will mitigate costs to perhaps fund programs for an additional three months.

Organizational Changes – Dr. Southard announced the following changes in the Department's personnel:

- Eduardo Vega – Director of DMH Consumer Affairs resigned from County service to accept a position as CEO in northern California. The scope of his job will be revised.
- Olivia Celis Karim – Deputy Director Specialized Foster Care is on extended medical leave. Byron Mershon will act in her capacity.
- Monagayle Sparks – Program Head, Patient's Rights Bureau resigned to accept a teaching position close to home.

Health Care Reform – The department continues to discuss workgroup requirements to navigate the impact of health care reform.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal reported the upcoming election results will determine how DMH plans to will move on advocating policy groups and working on the health care reform.

IV. Special Presentation – DMH Specialized Foster Care Programs

Greg Lecklitner, Specialized Foster Care

Mr. Lecklitner discussed the particulars of the Katie A. Lawsuit and Specialized Foster Care programs in Los Angeles County.

Katie A. History and Background

- Lawsuit filed in 2002 named 4 defendants that included two state agencies, the Los Angeles County, and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- Allegations are failure to access mental health needs, inadequate mental health services, placement disruptions, over-reliance on congregate care, and institutionalization at MacLaren Children's Center
- Class members are those in foster care or at risk of foster care placement by DCFS, have mental illness and need individualized services to treat or improve the illness. There are 32,000 children served by DCFS foster care program
- Los Angeles County entered into a settlement agreement to make system improvements to better serve the members of the class. The state has not settled and funds are delayed. DMH has screened 17,000 DCFS kids and most need further treatment.
- DMH Support – Braiding of major funding sources, over 316 positions hired with 170 co-located in DCFS offices, creation of Child Welfare Division, and \$100 million in contracts.
- Successes – 17,000 children screened for mental health service needs, penetration rate of 67% for mental health services, wraparound program expansion, and collaborative advisory panel
- Next Steps – Core practice model training; expand wraparound to 4,200 slots by 2013; acceptable scores on set of data indicators; passing score on Quality Service Review Exit.

V. Commissioners' Reports

Ilean Rabens – Ms. Rabens announced the Women's Conference chaired by First Lady Maria Shriver featured quilting designs by juvenile residents from Camp Scott and Scudder. The designs were on display and honored during the Minerva Awards celebration at the conference. Cal State University at Dominguez is collaborating with the camps to mentor the juveniles to continue developing their talent and education.

Frank Baron – Mr. Baron opened a discussion on the impact of Proposition 19 (Marijuana Law). Dialogue included the relationship between legalizing the drug and addiction, and the negative impact on people with mental illness.

Delores Huffman – Submitted the following housing report for the month of October 2010:

MHSA Housing Program

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program at various stages of development. The status of each project as of October 19, 2010 is shown below:

Developing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period

- Avalon II Family Apartments

Preparing Technical Submission

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

Technical Submission under Review

- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Cedar Springs Apartments
- New Genesis Apartments

Invitation to Submit Full Application

- Parker Hotel
- Bobbie Owens Family Living Community

Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval

- Figueroa Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Parkview on the Park Apartments

Approved for Funding by the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Epworth Apartments
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- NoHo Senior Villas
- KIWA Apartments
- Willis Avenue Apartments

Approved for Funding and Initiated Construction

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Ford Apartments

- Villas at Gower
- Glenoaks Gardens

Open for Occupancy

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments

Housing Trust Fund Program

As of July 19 2010, the Department added four new housing projects bringing a total of 16 Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Program awardees. 10 projects are in operation one of which is both a shared housing and scattered site project. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 235 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The services being provided assists formerly homeless individuals and their families maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. The project sponsor for the Bonnie Brae Apartments are completing the final requirements necessary to initiate the leasing process for this senior project located in Service Area 4. Construction has begun for Glenoaks Gardens, the Los Angeles Family Housing project located in Service Area 2. Project Home, located in the downtown area of Service 4, is scheduled to open in December 2010. The remaining projects, Cedar Springs, Nehemiah Courts, and Mini Twelve Step are new construction slated to begin in the fall of 2011.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

Housing Assistance Program

The Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposit and purchasing the basic essentials to furnish their apartment. In addition, financial resources are available to pay one month's rent in arrears to prevent eviction and ongoing rental assistance for qualified clients. The funding sources for the Housing Assistance Program include Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness and MHSA. During the period July 1, 2010 through October 19, 2010, the Department assisted the following numbers of clients with securing permanent housing:

- 59 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 106 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 3 clients with eviction prevention; and
- 27 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Phase 28, the Department has begun to utilize \$62,000 approved for Phase 28 in the two designated categories: Food (\$22,500) and Motel/Hotel voucher (\$39,500) beginning April 2010 through October 2010. These resources have been made available countywide through our directly-operated clinics within the 8 service areas. The Department has been selected to submit a full proposal for the Emergency Food & Shelter Program - Phase 29 grant cycle beginning November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011.

VI. Community and SAAC Reports -

LACCC – Pam Inaba, Chair, Los Angeles County Client Coalition

Ms. Inaba discussed a proposal about the coalition seeking support from the Commission. The proposal is a fundraising dance and silent auction to fund its 20 year anniversary celebration in February 2011.

SAAC 2 – Roberta Burkenheim submitted the following report:

Service Area 2 meeting was on October 14, 2010. The meeting was well attended by adult and children service providers, schools, hospitals, correctional release service, consumers, family of consumers, Eva Carrera-District Chief, Dorothy Ross-Chair, and Jim Randal-Outreach Coordinator. Issues discussed were:

- A few wrinkles with the implementation of Prevention and Early Intervention program.
- The celebration of 50 years of mental health in Service Area 2 on October 15, 2010 from 11:30 – 3:00 pm at the Santa Clarita Mental Health Clinic
- The next scheduled meeting in on Veterans Day, all agreed to meet November 18, 2010. Meeting was closed

On October 15, 2010, the celebration of 50 years was held and was a big success. The community of Santa Clarita came out and gave their support. This was a very good day. Also in October Service Area 2 had "Ask the Psychiatrist" day. We had a good turn out and participants benefited from the discussion.

SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks reported SAAC 6 continues to work on increasing membership and working with DMH on SAAC vision and mission, and policy and membership guidelines.

VII. Public Comments –

- **William Legere** – Discussed the untimely death of former LACCC Chairperson Audrey Hall.
- **Zed Null** – Governor's cuts to budget and elimination of JTPM. Without training, it is often difficult to obtain employment. Request the Commission submit a request to the new Governor elect to re institute funding for this program.

- **Dennis Miller** – Concern over the following issues; foods we eat and drink for better recovery, increased weight gaining and results, importance of exercise, too many cooked foods, and importance to vote on Tuesday, November 2.

VIII. Meeting adjourned in memory of Audrey J. Hall

Ms. Hall was Emeritus Chair of Los Angeles County Client Coalition; she served two terms as Chair. Audrey was a member and former recording secretary of Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition and very active in the community.

NEXT MEETING LOCATION

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Noon – 2:30 pm

500 W. Temple Street

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration - Room 739

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd